

RECOGNIZING THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF TOM DYER

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Tom Dyer. Tom was born in Lancaster, Ohio in 1955. His family moved from Madison, Wisconsin to the Orlando area in 1969. One of his first summer jobs was as a character at Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom. Tom is a graduate of Winter Park High School, DePauw University and the University of Florida, Levin College of Law.

Tom is the founder and publisher of Watermark, Orlando and Tampa Bay's award-winning LGBT newspaper. Founded in 1994, the newspaper distributes 20,000 newspapers to more than 500 locations every other Thursday. The web site, WatermarkOnline.com, is visited by more than 5,000 users every week. The company donates more than \$200,000 annually in free and sponsor advertising to worthy local and national LGBT non-profits.

In 1997 Watermark Media produced Beach Ball at Disney's Typhoon Lagoon, the first large-scale nighttime party associated with Gay Days Weekend. Watermark publishes a glossy guide to Gay Days Weekend, the largest annual LGBT gathering in the nation, as well as programs for St. Pete Pride in June and Orlando's Come Out With Pride in October.

Watermark sought to hang rainbow flags throughout downtown Orlando during Gay Pride Month in 1998. The city reluctantly acquiesced, but the controversy made national news when televangelist, Pat Robertson, predicted Orlando would be beset by hurricanes as punishment.

Tom has interviewed such luminaries as Gloria Steinem, Billie Jean King, Lily Tomlin and Martina Navratilova for Watermark. His recent interview with former governor, and now candidate for governor, Charlie Crist, went viral after it was picked up by HuffPost.com, CNN.com and MSNBC.com.

In addition to publishing Watermark, Tom is a practicing attorney and senior partner in Dyer & Blaisdell, PL. He is a former board member of the Metropolitan Business Association and the Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. He currently serves on the advisory board for the Harvey Milk Foundation.

Tom has received the Vice Versa Award for excellence in LGBT journalism, the Spectrum Award for Male Role Model and Equality Florida's Voice for Equality Award. In 2004, the City of Orlando presented Tom with the "Key to the City" in honor of Watermark's 10th anniversary. In 2014, he was named a Champion of Equality by the Harvey Milk Foundation.

Tom lives in Winter Park, where he enjoys spending time with nine nieces and nephews and his beloved Welsh corgi, Seamus. He's also working on his downward dog at regular Yoga sessions.

I am happy to honor Tom Dyer, during LGBT Pride Month, for his contributions to the Central Florida LGBT community.

THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION ACT

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Federal Credit Union Act and to use this occasion to honor the contributions that the credit union movement has made to the United States. The Act, which was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1934, permits credit unions to be formed anywhere in the United States. The legislation bolstered the development of credit unions as a way to promote thrift among the American people while setting in place federal oversight of these financial institutions.

Eighty years later, credit unions in the United States claim nearly 100 million members. If the credit unions those members own were a single financial institution, it would be the fifth largest bank in America.

But thankfully, those credit unions are more than 6,600 independent, consumer-owned, volunteer-led, democratically controlled financial institutions, vital to the well-being of their members.

Credit unions are part of the great fabric that makes our country strong.

They are cooperatives—bound together by a common set of business principles and values: voluntary membership; democratic control; economic participation; autonomy and independence; member education; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

A Canadian, Alphonse Desjardins, brought the idea for credit unions west from Europe in 1900 and by 1909 he had successfully organized the first American credit union in New Hampshire. Two Americans, Pierre Jay, the Massachusetts banking commissioner and Edward Filene, a Boston merchant, took up the cause of promoting credit unions in those early years.

In 1908 a national conference on credit unions was held in Boston that brought together Desjardins, Filene, Jay and others interested in the formative stages of the movement. That conference led to the 1909 draft of legislation in Massachusetts that became the nation's first state credit union act.

The movement developed slowly during the following decade and by 1921 Filene became convinced that federal legislation was needed in addition to existing state legislation. He hired Massachusetts attorney Roy Bergengren to help. The Credit Union National Extension Bureau was formed. Four years later, 15 states had passed credit union enabling laws and 419 credit unions were serving 108,000 consumers.

After the 1934 passage of the Federal Credit Union Act, credit unions recognized their need for stronger national representation and unity. The Credit Union National Association was formed—replacing the Credit Union National Extension Bureau.

Robust credit union growth continued until World War II. Wartime slowed the expansion of the movement considerably. Interest picked up again once the conflict ended and by 1955 there were more than 16,000 credit unions across the United States. By 1969, that number had swelled to nearly 24,000.

The 1970s brought about great change to credit unions as they broadened their services to meet the expanding needs of their members. Legislation permitting mortgage lending by credit unions was passed and the total number of credit union members more than doubled during the decade.

As consumer needs evolved and became more complex, many credit unions merged to increase their ability to pool resources and improve member services. While the total number of actual credit unions decreased with mergers, the number of consumer members of credit unions soared, and is now on the cusp of 100 million across the nation.

Credit unions continue to innovate with new services and tools to help their members build economic security.

The work Congress did 80 years ago in passing the Federal Credit Union Act continues to serve the country well.

In fact, the influence credit unions have on the entire financial system saves all consumers money with generally lower rates for loans and higher rates for savings—no matter where they bank. An impressive \$8 billion dollars in savings in 2013 alone is attributed to credit unions.

Today, credit unions are utilized by their members for the convenience, prices, product choice, and financial education they offer.

Credit unions are living up to the promise outlined in their principles. They are institutions that their members and all Americans can choose to be their best financial partner.

RECOGNIZING THE ORANGE COUNTY
SANITATION DISTRICT ON 60
YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the Orange County Sanitation District (OCS) on its 60th anniversary. Since June 30, 1954, the OCS has provided residents in North and Central Orange County outstanding wastewater collection, treatment and recycling services.

The OCS services approximately 2.5 million people, 21 cities and has two operating facilities that treat wastewater from residential, commercial and industrial sources. Through innovative technologies, the OCS has served as a leader and model for communities around the world as they battle to protect public health and the environment from the harms of untreated wastewater.

However, the OCS does not just simply treat wastewater. In fact, by utilizing all practical and effective means, the OCS is producing an average of 10,000 kilowatts of electricity per day, monitoring the water quality of local beaches, and recycling 268,000 tons of biosolids per year. Yet, these are only the secondary benefits of its highest achievement.

In a joint venture with the Orange County Water District, the OCS facilitated the creation of the world's largest water purification system, the Orange County Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS). Using a three-step advanced treatment process, the GWRS purifies 70 million gallons of high quality potable water per day that would otherwise be unusable. This is the equivalent to the daily